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man and naturalist, who also draws beautifully; so that, as Madame Tinné remarks, 'they hope to make a more scientific, if not a more agreeable, journey than the last.'

"The health of the party that had been at Gondókoro, some of whom had suffered from fever, was entirely restored during their prolonged stay of two months and a half at Khartum, and all were in excellent spirits. The weather had been cool, rather stormy at times, but agreeable and bracing, and the sky bright and blue.

"Their present expedition is on a larger scale than the former one. They have the steamer and five boats, with 168 people to provide for (50 of whom are additional soldiers), besides 4 camels, 30 mules and donkeys, and 3 horses. The boats had been repaired and refitted with new sails, and they had laid in guns, ammunition, new tents, and ample stores of all kinds. Further on, nothing of that description could be got, and everything therefore had to be procured beforehand.

"The Dutch gentleman intended to proceed up the Nile, and Madame Tinné and her daughter were to turn off at Bahr-el-Gazal. At some point of this river they would find the rest of their party, who had gone on in advance. Disembarking there, they proposed leaving their boats and commencing a land journey into the interior,—to use Madame Tinné's own words, 'into unknown parts.'

"She mentions Mr. Baker having started, and also speaks of the rumour about Mr. Petherick's disappearance, but nothing more decided than we have heard previously as to his fate."

For this communication from Mr. Tinné the President begged the Fellows to return their best thanks, for he was sure there were few persons more entitled to be honorary members of the Royal Geographical Society than those adventurous ladies.

The Papers read were—

1. *Exploration of the Elephant Mountain in the Batonga Country, West Africa.* By Capt. R. F. BURTON, H.M. Consul for the Bight of Biafra and Fernando Po.

CAPT. BURTON visited Batonga Bay in September, 1862, about the commencement of the second rainy season of the year. The bay is a mere roadstead, and the ship (H.M.S. *Bloodhound*) lay 1½ mile from the land. A heavy surf breaks on the whole coast from the Cameroons River to Corisco Island; and landing is almost exclusively effected in light native canoes. The shore shows a long line of densely-wooded lowland, based upon yellow sand. Inland are seen groups of low hills, conjectured to be the spurs of the Sierra del Crystal. This range, never yet crossed by any European, seems to form a line of Ghauts similar to those in Eastern Africa, at about 100 or 150 miles from the coast. The most remarkable among the intermediate hills is the "Elephant Mountain," so called from its resemblance to an elephant couchant. There are two or three factories belonging to European merchants in the bay, but none of the residents appear to have ever penetrated a mile of the interior. Although the country is rich, there is no trade but ivory;

and this comes from a distance, as no elephants are found within four days' march of the coast. The Elobe River pours itself into the bay by a low cataract, above which the party obtained a view of the stream, without however succeeding in obtaining any information about its upper course or its source.

On the 14th September Capt. Burton landed with Lieut. Stokes to explore the Elephant Mountain. After considerable difficulty with the chiefs on the coast, who, as usual, were unwilling that any traveller should pass beyond their own territories, the party started the following day. The path, a narrow line, led them first past some villages of bushmen, and then through an undulating country, densely wooded with a profuse variety of vegetation. Water was abundant in clear running streams, but game nowhere to be seen. The first day's march, which was much delayed by palavers at the villages, and at the ferry across the Elobe, was about 7 miles.

Leaving Labele, their night's halting-place, the next morning the party crossed a deep hollow, and began the ascent of the mountain from the south-east. The path, at first easy, soon became steep and slippery, and the wood grew thinner; and after three hours' march the summit was reached. The elevation was found by B.P. thermometer to be 1707 feet, agreeing with the trigonometrical measurement given in the chart. The party descended by a still more difficult path on the western side, and returned to the coast on the 17th.

2. *Narrative of a Journey to Odé, the Capital of the Ijebu Country, in January, 1862.* By CAPT. BEDINGFELD, R.N.

THE object of the Expedition which visited Abeokuta, Porto Nuovo, and Odé, after the cession of Lagos, was to conciliate and explain to the chiefs our views in forming the colony, and to induce them to put a stop to the petty wars, and to open their roads to legitimate commerce.

The Ijebus had never before been visited by any white man, except Mr. Champneys, a Wesleyan missionary. The present party was received in a most friendly manner, and the visit was in every way satisfactory. They were much struck with the beauty of the country, the amount of cultivation, and the industry of various kinds shown by the natives. One large village contained a great number of blacksmiths, occupied in manufacturing hoes.

Captain Bedingfeld, accompanied by Lieut. Dolbin, of the *Prometheus*, and an interpreter, left Lagos on the 12th January in a